

Mr. Vossmeier served the United States Senate as the legislative Assistant to Missouri Senator Thomas F. Eagleton from 1969 to 1972. Steve accompanied Senator Eagleton and two other Senators on a fact finding mission to Vietnam in 1970. His interrogation of military personnel after their "canned" presentations uncovered significant admissions that the war was not going as well as public pronouncements had indicated. In response he drafted major portions of the War Powers Act. His strongly held beliefs in the democratic process motivated him to serve as an election observer for the first democratically conducted elections in Czechoslovakia after the fall of communism.

Mr. Vossmeier was elected a Missouri State Representative of the 86th District in 1972, and held that office for ten years. His first election was one of the biggest upsets in the state. He ran against a well known labor union official who outspent him by a margin of more than 4 to 1. His campaign utilized innovative techniques and new technology not previously employed in Missouri elections. At the close of each session, he prepared a comprehensive newsletter on the successes and failures, and those newsletters were quickly imitated almost verbatim—with his approval—by legislative colleagues of both parties. Steve was aided in these elections and constituent communications by Sandy Rothschild, a close friend from Washington University undergraduate days.

During his tenure in the Missouri House he championed a number of measures that benefited women. Her sponsored several measures to protect rape victims from spurious attacks by defense attorneys and to balance the playing field for both sides in domestic relations disputes. He sponsored public records reforms and legislation to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment. He helped numerous women in their campaigns for public office. This list includes State Representative Sue Shear, Lt. Governor Harriet Woods and Dee Joyce Hayes, his former wife, who he helped a decade after their divorce in her successful effort to become St. Louis Circuit Attorney. As Chairman of the House Governmental Review Committee, Steve reformed many of the antiquated and ineffective procedures used by State agencies and modernized the State's mental health laws.

Steve served the City of St. Louis as a Member of the Board of Electors. This body examined a series of problems confronting the St. Louis region, recommending various reforms. In the St. Louis community he remained a political activist fighting for good government and preservation of historic neighborhoods. His opinion on a broad range of issues was sought by numerous federal, state, and local officials, including former Missouri Congressmen Jack Buechner and Alan Wheat, as well as the sponsors of this Congressional Record Statement. He was always very generous with his time and consistently demonstrated concern for issues of public interest. Steve practice law in St. Louis full time with the firm he co-founded in 1979, Newburger and Vossmeier. His principal partner was David Newburger, who he met while Mr. Newburger taught law at Washington University. His primary area of practice was civil litigation and domestic relations.

Steve has a son, Robert Stephen Vossmeier, and a daughter, Rebecca Sarah

Vossmeier. "Becca" is the child of his current marriage with M. Celeste Vossmeier. He loved his children dearly. They were with him during his last days, as were friends mentioned herein joined by Richard Callow, Betty Neill, and Paul Steinmann. We include an article from the Sunday, March 11 edition of "The St. Louis Post-Dispatch" where a number of his friends reflect with Jo Mannies on their memories of Steve.

Mr. Speaker, please join us in sending condolences to Steve's family in their time of grief. We will honor him by gathering March 19th from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the courtyard at Bar Italia in his neighborhood per his wishes that friends celebrate his life. In Marc Connelly's profound 1930 play, *The Green Pastures*, has characters suffer as they fight to save their families and countryside from oppressors. They discover God's love through suffering. We are glad that Steve's suffering is over and he has found God's love. We doubt that he will ever stop fighting the good fight.

EX-STATE REPRESENTATIVE STEVE VOSSMEIER, PROMINENT FIGURE IN DEMOCRATIC POLITICS, DIES AT 56

(By Jo Mannies)

Former state Rep. Steve Vossmeier, a St. Louis lawyer prominent in Democratic politics and local civic affairs, died Saturday of cancer at his home in the Central West End. He was 56.

His close friends included some of the state's top political figures, including former Sen. Thomas F. Eagleton, for whom Mr. Vossmeier worked in the late 1960s and early '70s; former Rep. Jack Buechner, a Republican who practiced law with Mr. Vossmeier for several years; and Rep. Karen McCarthy, D-Kansas City, an old ally in the state Legislature.

"He was involved in politics because of his abiding belief in the people and service to the people," said his friend and law partner, David Newburger.

Allies said that during his years in the Missouri House, from 1972-83, Mr. Vossmeier played a key role in reforming Missouri's mental health laws and in changing the state's rape laws so that they treated married women equitably.

"He was one of the state's first feminists," McCarthy said Saturday.

Friends said Mr. Vossmeier's sense of humor was a key reason why he was such a popular political figure. "He used his wit the way Old West gunfighters used their pistols," said political consultant Richard Callow, a close friend.

Mr. Vossmeier was born March 14, 1944, in St. Louis.

His political involvement began early. After graduating with a bachelor's degree from Washington University, he studied international affairs at George Washington University in Washington.

In 1968, Mr. Vossmeier joined then-Lt. Gov. Eagleton's campaign for the U.S. Senate. Following Eagleton's election, Mr. Vossmeier joined Eagleton's congressional staff.

"Steve Vossmeier was exceedingly bright. . . . He put in more hours per day than anyone else involved in the campaign," Eagleton recalled. "He was strongly against the Vietnam War. He simply couldn't believe the misinformation being put out by the Defense Department. He went with me on a trip to Vietnam in the early '70s. After we'd get the canned briefings by the generals and colonels he'd cross-examine them and turn up facts they'd left out."

Mr. Vossmeier's friends said he was most proud of his involvement in Eagleton's suc-

cessful effort to win congressional passage of the War Powers Act, which requires presidents to obtain congressional approval when waging war.

Mr. Vossmeier returned to St. Louis to run for the Legislature in 1972. McCarthy said he was part of an alliance on women's issues that included the late Rep. Sue Shear and then-state Sen. Harriett Woods.

"He was one to galvanize those of like minds around an issue," McCarthy said.

While serving in the state House, he also attended Washington University's School of Law, where he received his degree. In 1979, he co-founded the local law firm Newburger & Vossmeier.

"I have never known a lawyer more dedicate and devoted to his clients," Newburger said.

After leaving the Legislature, Mr. Vossmeier remained a political activist. A Democratic panel nominated him in 1985 to take over as chairman of the Missouri Democratic Party, but an internal dispute scuttled that plan. In the early 1990s, Mr. Vossmeier was involved in a now-defunct city-county effort called the Board of Electors, charged with tackling regional issues.

Among survivors are his wife, Mary Celeste Vossmeier; a son, Robert Stephen Vossmeier; and a daughter, Rebecca Sarah Vossmeier, all of St. Louis.

The funeral will be private. A memorial service will be held from 4 to 8 p.m. March 19 at Bar Italia, 4656 Maryland Avenue.

## RECOGNIZING PRINCETON UNIVERSITY FOR WINNING THE IVY LEAGUE MEN'S BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP AND GOING TO THE NCAA TOURNAMENT

### HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 15, 2001

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the hard work of the Princeton University Tigers men's basketball team who won the Ivy League basketball title earlier this month with a 68-52 victory over the University of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, this victory gives the Tigers their eight Ivy League Championship in 13 years and an automatic bid to the "big dance."

The 12th Congressional District of New Jersey has a proud tradition of sending teams into battle during "March Madness." This is Princeton University's 23rd Ivy League title. As the field begins to fill out I salute the courage and determination of the Princeton Tigers and wish them great success and a full dance card.

#### MEN'S BASKETBALL 2001-01 ROSTER

Number, Name, Position, Class, Weight, High School/Hometown:

3, Kyle Wente, G, So., 180, St. Anthony's/Effingham, IL.

10, Ed Persia, G, Fr., 180, Monsignor Kelly/Beaumont, TX.

12, Pete Hegseth, G, So., 170, Forest Lake/Forest Lake, MN.

15, Ahmed El-Nokali, G, Jr., 175, Chartiers Valley/Pittsburgh, PA.

22, C.J. Chapman, G, Sr., 175, Denver East/Aurora, CO.

23, Mike Bechtold, F, Jr., 190, Lebanon/Lebanon, PA.

30, Andre Logan, F, Fr., 210, Polp Prep/Brooklyn, NY.

32, Conor Neu, F, Jr., 200, Monte Vista/Danville, CA.

33, Nate Walton, F/C, Sr., 205, University/  
San Diego, CA.

34, Konrad Wysocki, F, Fr., 215, Greensboro  
Day School/Lollar, Germany.

35, Terence Rozier-Byrd, C, Sr., 225, Chris-  
tian Brothers/Lakewood, NJ.

45, Heath Jones, C, Fr., 230, Pender/Burgaw,  
NC.

Head Coach John Thompson.  
Assistant Coach Mike Brennan.  
Assistant Coach Robert Burke.  
Assistant Coach Howard Levy.